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The paper, which covers 64 pages, includes a ten-page structural and historical introduction, followed by a key to the species of *Chara*. Following the key are full descriptions of all of the species, with the type locality, distribution, illustrations and exsiccatae for each species. Suggestive critical notes are appended in many cases, adding much to the value of this important contribution to our knowledge of this interesting group of plants.

#### A MOSS BOOK.

SOME weeks ago Part III. of Dr. Grout's 'Mosses with Hand-lens and Microscope' came to hand, continuing the work from page 167 to 246. In this part we have the completion of the family *Tortulaceae*, and the treatment in succession of *Encalyptaceae*, *Orthotrichaceae*, *Schistostegaceae*, *Splachnaceae*, *Funariaceae*, *Meeseaceae*, *Timmiaceae*, *Aulacomniaceae*, *Bartramiaceae*, *Bryaceae* and *Leskeaceae*. The two families to which the most space is given are *Orthotrichaceae* and *Bryaceae*, which together take up more than half of the pages of this part. The illustrations and text maintain the high standard set by the author in the two preceding parts. The statement is made that two more parts will complete this important and very useful work.

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

#### CENTRAL BUILDING OF IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS.

ON June 8, 1906, the new central building of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts was dedicated. Hon. W. J. Dixon, in speaking of the construction of the building, said:

The building is 216 feet long by 112 feet in depth. Floor area 98,000 square feet. The building contains 1,892,738 cubic feet of materials. The base is of Georgia granite and the outer walls of Bedford stone. The roof is tile set in concrete. Construction is fire-proof throughout. The plumbing, heating and lighting is of the most approved modern systems. The cost of the completed building is \$375,000.

The architects were Proudfoot & Bird, of Des Moines; the builder was Henry W. Schleuter, and the superintendent of construction was Dean Anson Marston. The furniture cost \$52,000.

The commencement address was made by Dr. F. W. Gunsaulus, of Chicago. The following number of degrees were conferred: B.S.A., 34; D.V.M., 4; B.M.E., 19; B.C.E., 27; B.S. in E.E., 21; B.S. in Min.E., 8; B.S., 14, three men and eleven women; M.S.A., 6; C.E., 1; M.S., 2; B.D.S., 1. One honorary degree of M.Ph.

At a meeting of the board of trustees on June 1, R. Earle Buchanan was made assistant professor of general bacteriology and Estelle D. Fogel was made instructor in botany.

The following departments have rooms in the new central building: English, history, mathematics, civics, economic science, modern languages, elocution and oratory. There are also general offices for the board and the secretary, the purchasing committee, the president and faculty, and a reception room, treasurer's office, and the rooms of the department of botany. The department of botany occupies most of the upper floor and the attic story.

L. H. PAMMEL.

#### SIR WILLIAM PERKIN AND THE AMERICAN JUBILEE OF THE COAL TAR INDUSTRY.

WE have already noted the British celebration in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the dye-stuff mauve by Sir William Perkin. American chemists decided to celebrate the foundation of the coal tar industry independently, and Sir William Perkin and Lady Perkin left Liverpool on the *Umbria*, on September 22, to be present at a banquet which will be given at Delmonico's, on October 6.

The American committee submitted to a public meeting, held May 28, 1906, the following program: (1) To invite Sir William Perkin to be present at the American celebration as the guest of the Americans. (2) The presentation to Sir William Perkin of a personal token. (3) The foundation of a Perkin medal to be awarded annually to an American chemist for distinguished work in applied